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New York, June 20, 1914. No. 7



*Published by the contributors to advance the Science of cold-blooded vertebrates.*

#### NOTES ON THE GILA MONSTER.

In May, 1907, the Children's Museum in Brooklyn received a fine specimen, 17 inches in length, of the Gila Monster, *Heloderma suspectum* Cope, captured a few weeks previous near Tucson, Arizona. When it died, February 3, 1914, or almost seven years after captivity, it measured 18 inches.

At first vicious and ever ready with partly open jaws and quick motions of the head to snap at an intruder, the lizard became sluggish after a few weeks, rarely attempting to bite even when handled. It frequently drank water, but refused to take food, such as eggs, whole or beaten, chopped beef, or milk. After two months of such behavior, forcible feeding was resorted to. This was accomplished by means of a glass tube,  $\frac{3}{8}$  inch in diameter and 18 inches long. The procedure briefly was as follows: grasping the lizard just behind the head and holding it in a vertical position the jaws were pried open with a strong pair of dental forceps, the tube inserted to a depth of from 2 to  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches and the contents of one beaten egg allowed to run down. Thereafter this operation was repeated once a month. It worked perfectly; there was no

spilling and the reptile apparently thrived. Dissection after death showed blood-clots around the heart; otherwise all organs looked normal. Thick layers of fat lined the sides of the abdomen. A few days before, while feeding, the forceps slipped and the reptile's jaws closed with sufficient force to splinter the glass tube. Injury received through this accident probably caused death.

Shedding of the skin did not occur at regular intervals, but rather continuously, small patches peeling off here and there.

On October 26, 1907, a museum attendant was bitten in the fleshy part of the base of the thumb of the right hand. The reptile's hold was extremely tenacious, and some time, perhaps a minute, elapsed before the hand was released. The wound showed 6 small punctures. Swelling and discoloration of the hand, accompanied by great pain in the hand and arm, followed quickly. Although immediately placed under medical care, when the patient reported for duty two weeks later, he still complained of numbness in the hand and arm and occasional dizziness. Lack of mental reserve and a physical condition below the average in this case no doubt contributed in rendering the effect of the Gila Monster's bite unusually severe.

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#### A HYBRID CENTRARCHID.

On December 12-14, 1911, a small collection of fishes was made in the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal above Violet's Lock, about 25 miles above the city of Washington, D. C.

Among the fishes taken was a Centrarchid which is apparently a cross between *Chenobryttus*

*gulosus* (Cuvier & Valenciennes) and *Lepomis gibbosus* (Linnaeus). At the time of capture it was noted that the form and color were unusual and unlike any of the Centrarchids common to these waters.

Following is a table of comparative measurements of the hybrid and a typical example of each of the other species of nearly the same size:

	<i>Chenabryttus gulosus</i>	<i>Hybrid</i>	<i>Lepomis gibbosus</i>
Total length in cm.....	19.4	16.3	15.4
Head (without flap) in standard length.....	2.67	2.59	2.91
Depth in standard length.....	2.28	2.10	2.10
Eye in head.....	5.28	4.63	4.00
Snout in head.....	3.86	3.00	3.05
Maxillary.....	2.15	2.55	3.23
Maxillary reaching.....	to behind pupil	to front of pupil	to front of eye
Interorbital.....	4.06	3.64	3.11
Pectoral.....	1.66	1.42	1.20
Teeth on tongue.....	present	present	absent
Dorsal formula.....	X, 10, 1	X, 10, 1	X, 11, 1
Anal formula.....	III, 9, 1	III, 9, 1	III, 10, 1
Scale formula .....	7+11-42 (+5)	7+12-42 (+5)	7+12-39 (+4)
Rows of scales on cheeks .....	6	6	5

The profile of the hybrid is very different from *C. gulosus*, the body being short and deep, ovate; the snout is long, pointed, and the upper profile, from tip of snout to origin of dorsal, is relatively straight.

In *C. gulosus* the pectoral is broad, distal margin evenly rounded; in the hybrid, it is broad, pointed, upper rays longest, and in *L. gibbosus* it is narrow, pointed, median rays longest. Although the color pattern of the hybrid is nearest to that of *C. gulosus*, it is unlike that of any example seen in these waters, the color markings are less distinct

and on lower side and belly blend into those of typical examples of *L. gibbosus*. The coloration of the fins and the form and coloration of the opercular flap agree with *C. gulosus*.

The writer has seen other hybrid Centrarchids from the vicinity of Washington, D. C., one of these being apparently a cross between *C. gulosus* and *L. gibbosus*; another between *C. gulosus* and *L. cyanellus* Rafinesque. In this connection it is interesting to note that *C. gulosus* is not a native species, having been introduced into the Potomac by the Fish Commission about 1895.

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#### SOME NOTES ON THE CRICKET FROG ON LONG ISLAND.

The country lying between Flushing and Jamaica is an excellent place for frogs. In the woods and between the woods are many small ponds varying from a small pool to a fair-sized pond, big and deep enough to swim in. Here as early as March 23, 1913, I found and collected several Cricket Frogs. Later, as the spring advanced, they became quite common, the small gray frogs being the most plentiful.

This year, 1914, their appearance was later, April 19 being the first. Two weeks later, May 3, I collected several and heard the song; about 11 o'clock one sang as I watched it. Later in the day, at a pond some two miles northeast, I heard some more, while those in my collecting box sang several times.

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